

\$2

NOVEMBER 15, 2024 | VOLUME 15 | ISSUE 24

YOUR PURCHASE BENEFITS THE VENDORS.  
PLEASE BUY ONLY FROM BADGED VENDORS.

No place like homeless: the future of  
peer innovation **page 7**

MEET YOUR  
VENDOR:  
**MIKE JONES**  
PAGE 3

# GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP | WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICH.



NATIONAL  
**HUNGER AND**  
**HOMELESSNESS**  
**AWARENESS** WEEK

Washtenaw Camp Outreach  
is modeling leadership and  
solidarity through community  
service. **page 6**

Packing the truck  
before the Washtenaw  
Camp Outreach BBQ.  
Photo submitted

THIS PAPER WAS BOUGHT FROM

venmo

@groundcovernews, include vendor name and vendor #

hunger + homelessness awareness **WEEK****STATE of HOMELESSNESS and AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Monday, November 18, 8 to 10:30 a.m.  
Washtenaw Community College — Morris Lawerence Building  
4800 E. Huron River Drive  
*Washtenaw Housing Alliance's annual breakfast and keynote program. Register at: SoHAH2024.eventbrite.com*

**HEALTH and WELLNESS FAIR**

Monday, November 18, 2-5 p.m.  
Delonis Center, 312 W. Huron Street  
*Resource fair for clients and those in the community experiencing homelessness. Washtenaw Literacy, Humana and more will be present. Come here for blood pressure tests, employment resources and more!*

**INTERFAITH COUNCIL for PEACE and JUSTICE HARVEST DINNER**

Monday, November 18, 5:30-7 p.m.  
Ypsilanti Freighthouse, 100 Market Pl  
*Honor community leaders who live the values of ICPJ and work toward a collective vision. The collective work of so many is what will lead toward radical, systemic change and bring about the racial, economic, social and*

*environmental justice that all people deserve. RSVP online at: givebutter.com/ICPJ2024HarvestDinner*

**OZONE HOUSE OPEN HOUSE**

Tuesday, November 19, 5-8 p.m.  
1600 N. Huron River Dr., Ypsilanti  
*November is HOPE (Homelessness, Outreach, Prevention, Education) month. Join Ozone to celebrate the work they're doing to support youth experiencing homelessness and to explore ways we can continue to prevent and address youth housing instability in our community. Free and open to the public; light refreshments will be provided.*

**GROUNDCOVER LOVES YOU! ANNUAL OPEN MIC**

Friday, November 22, 6-8 p.m.  
Makeshift Gallery, 407 E Liberty St.  
*Join Groundcover this November in honoring Hunger & Homelessness Awareness week at our fifth open mic event! Come listen to community members share writing, songs, poetry and stories from the street. This is a FREE event. All are welcome. See graphic on page 12.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"I have just finished reading your issue of October 18th, and I thank you for the many interesting and helpful local news items. I was delighted to read 'Meet Your Vendor' focusing in that issue on Cindy Gere, whom I am happy to encounter very early in the mornings just outside Sweetwaters on West Washington St., where Cindy invariably greets me with a big smile. I also particularly appreciated Cindy's article on page 3: 'A2 downtown coffee shop extravaganza,' a topic I think many in the community are curious to know about. As an appreciative long-time reader of Groundcover News, I urge you to keep on informing us of current 'news and solutions from the ground up' in Washtenaw County." — Anna Ercoli Schnitzer, longtime Ann Arborite

"There is international law about genocide and associated crimes. South Africa is familiar with that reality and was the voice for much of the world when they took Israel to the International Court of Justice. The US does not recognize the ICJ so there is no good legal response for cases brought before it. The US always claims immunity from prosecution for itself and its allies. Nevertheless the case for genocide against Palestine is impressive and world opinion supports an end to this war." — Ken Parks

**GROUNDCOVER NEWS**

Groundcover News, a 501(c)(3) organization, was founded in April 2010 as a means to empower low-income persons to make the transitions from homeless to housed, and from jobless to employed.

Vendors purchase each copy of our regular editions of Groundcover News at our office for 50 cents. This money goes towards production costs. Vendors work selling the paper on the street for \$2, keeping all income and tips from each sale.

Street papers like Groundcover News exist in cities all over the United States, as well as in more than 40 other countries, in an effort to raise awareness of the plight of homeless people and combat the increase in poverty. Our paper is a proud member of the International Network of Street Papers.

**STAFF**

Lindsay Calka — *publisher*

Cynthia Price — *editor*

Michelle Lardie-Guzek — *intern*

**ISSUE CONTRIBUTORS**

Tabitha Almond  
Elizabeth Bauman  
Pedro Campos  
La Shawn Courtwright  
Shelley DeNeve  
Jacob Fallman  
Mike Jones  
Marie  
Will Shakespeare  
Denise Shearer  
Ike Staple

Jessi Averill  
Sim Bose  
Zachary Dortszbach  
Luiza Duarte Caetano  
Jacob Fallman  
Glenn Gates  
Alexandra Granberg  
Robert Klingler  
Simone Masing  
Anthony McCormick  
Mary Wisgerhof  
Max Wisgerhof

**PROVIDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-DETERMINED INDIVIDUALS IMPACTED BY POVERTY.**  
**PRODUCING A STREET NEWSPAPER THAT GIVES A PLATFORM TO UNDERREPRESENTED VOICES IN WASHTENAW COUNTY,**  
**PROMOTING AN ACTION TO BUILD A JUST, CARING AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY.**

**PROOFREADERS**

Susan Beckett  
Elliot Cubit  
Steve Ross  
Anabel Sicko

**VOLUNTEERS**

Jessi Averill  
Sim Bose  
Zachary Dortszbach  
Luiza Duarte Caetano  
Jacob Fallman  
Glenn Gates  
Alexandra Granberg  
Robert Klingler  
Simone Masing  
Anthony McCormick  
Mary Wisgerhof  
Max Wisgerhof

**CONTACT US**

Story and photo submissions:  
submissions@grouncovernews.com

Advertising and partnerships:  
contact@grouncovernews.com

Office: 423 S. 4th Ave., Ann Arbor  
Mon-Sat, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Phone: 734-263-2098

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# From Ann Arbor to New York City: Who protects the right to food, shelter?

**PEDRO CAMPOS**  
Groundcover vendor No. 652

Five years. That's how long I had dreamed of New York City — the city that never sleeps, the place where so many lives seem to converge and collide, where ambition meets possibility. Growing up, I'd seen New York in movies, heard it in songs, and felt it in stories of all kinds. It was always larger-than-life, a place where anyone could be someone, where anything could happen.

And yet, as I planned and saved, I never imagined I'd be arriving in New York City homeless. For most of my life, I'd managed to keep a roof over my head. I'd made sacrifices and hustled to make things work, and through all of life's ups and downs, "homeless" was a label I never thought would apply to me. But life has a way of surprising us, especially when we think we know where we're going.

Originally, I had planned to pass through Detroit on my way to New York, but somehow, an unexpected turn brought me to Ann Arbor. It wasn't on my original itinerary; it was more of a whispered suggestion, almost like an angel's nudge: "Ann Arbor, University of Michigan." Something in me said, "Why not?" And so I decided to stay for a while. I couldn't have known then how much that detour would mean.



Pedro (pictured left) and his friend and supporter Mike (pictured right) in NYC.

The first thing that struck me about Ann Arbor was its warmth — not the weather, necessarily, but the people. There was a small-town friendliness mixed with the intellectual energy of the university community. Everywhere I turned, there were students

on bikes, professors with armfuls of books, musicians, artists and people from all walks of life. It had a unique vibrancy, and something in that made me feel like I could breathe a little easier. The energy felt like something I could grow roots in.

Within that first week, I was introduced to the harder side of homelessness. I found out quickly that not all parts of Ann Arbor were as welcoming as the sunny campus lawns and bustling cafes. While there were community spaces and meals at places like Saint Andrew's Church, there were also many closed doors. Getting shelter was a challenge. I learned about the local shelters but felt, in a way, that I was invisible to the system. Other people had been offered intake at Delonis, but somehow, I was always told it wasn't available for me.

They never mentioned an option for a Michigan ID or access to EBT benefits. It was as if the system was set up for everyone but me.

Yet, there were people who lifted me up in ways that words can hardly describe. When things felt hard, a ride on my bike would calm me down, remind me of the beauty of this unexpected home. And then there were the little spots around town where I found peace, like the river.

Ann Arbor wasn't always easy — it had its challenges, to say the least — but it also gave me roots. It was there, in my first week, that I met Michael, a man who would become my best friend and a kind of guide to life here in the United States. Born and raised in Brooklyn but with years in Ann Arbor, Mike became more than a friend; he became a brother, someone who looked out for me, helped me find work, and showed me ways to access the benefits I'd need to survive.

Some afternoons, I'd find myself sitting by the water, watching the ripples and feeling like maybe everything was going to work out. Ann Arbor had this way of surprising you, and its kindness kept me there all through spring, summer, and even into fall. Part of me felt like I'd grown roots there, too, and when it was finally time to leave, I knew it wouldn't be goodbye forever. I made a promise to myself that I'd come back in the spring. It was with those memories and experiences in my heart that I boarded the bus to New York.

When the time finally came to move to New York, Mike came along. We rode together on a bus, both of us carrying dreams and burdens, sharing

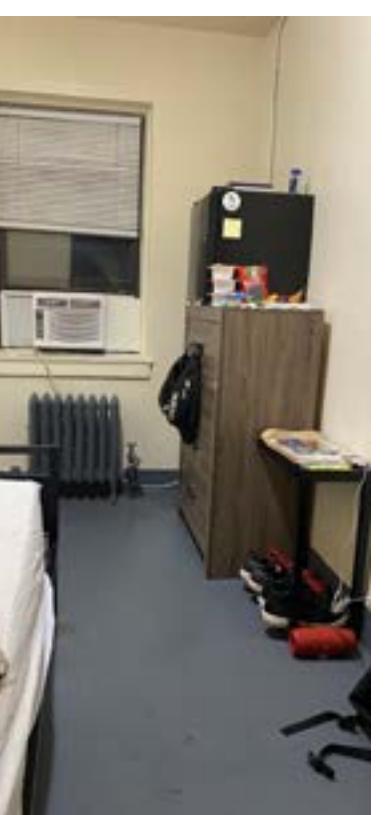
hopes and hardships on the road to the big city.

It's hard to describe the feeling of stepping off the bus in New York. You can imagine it a thousand times, but reality hits you like a wave. The noise, the lights, the people — it was all overwhelming and awe-inspiring all at once. I remember the words of a song by Brazilian poet Renato Russo that captured exactly what I felt: "He was amazed by the city, leaving the bus station, he saw the Christmas lights."

Even though it wasn't the holiday season yet, the lights, the rush and the energy felt just as magical. Broadway was right there as I stepped out, and I couldn't help but feel a little stunned. This was the New York I had dreamed of — glittering, chaotic, full of life. And yet, at that moment, I was without a permanent home, arriving with just what I had on my back and a few belongings in a bag. The excitement of the city was tempered by the reality of what I was facing: I was homeless in New York.

Still, New York City is a place where dreams and struggles coexist. The first thing I noticed was that, unlike Ann Arbor, the shelter system here seemed prepared. Within days, I had an intake, a New York ID, and even a place to stay — a bed in a shelter on 30th Street and 1st Avenue. I'll never forget my first night there. Over a thousand people were being sheltered under one roof, each with their own story, each facing their own challenges. And while the reality was sobering, there was also a strange sense of relief. In New York, everyone, whether an American citizen or not, has a right to shelter. It was something I hadn't expected, but it was a relief all the same.

Life in a New York City shelter is something you can't really prepare for. The scale of it all was astonishing.



Pedro's single dormitory where he was placed within days of arrival in New York. For the many months he was homeless in Ann Arbor, he never had access to indoor, overnight shelter.

I remember standing in a long line that seemed to stretch forever, surrounded by people from every imaginable background — men, women, young people, the elderly, immigrants and locals. The sheer diversity of lives around me was a reminder that homelessness doesn't have a single face or a single story. In a city like New York, everyone has a past and a reason for being there. After a week in the Manhattan shelter, I was transferred to an individual room in Brooklyn. It felt like a small victory, having a space to myself, even if it was temporary.

In some ways, it made it easier to focus on my next steps. My intake was complete, I had my New York ID and I was already starting to learn how the

see NEW YORK next page ➔

## Support an Alternative Business Model Local - Organic - Member-Owned



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**INVEST BY BECOMING A MEMBER!**

7 principles of Co-ops  
Voluntary, Democratic, Equitable, Independent, Informative, Collaborative, Community

We make it affordable:

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Visit us for unique cards and local, handmade items too  
**\$2 OFF** your purchase of \$15 or more  
One coupon per transaction  
Must present coupon at time of purchase

## WASHTENAW COUNTY WINTER SHELTER OPTIONS

**Daytime Warming Center Ypsilanti**  
Ypsi Freighthouse, 100 Market Place  
November 13 - March 28  
Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Daytime Warming Center Ann Arbor**  
Luther House Ed. Building, 1510 Hill Street  
November 19 - December 6  
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

First Baptist Church, 517 E Washington Street  
December 9 - January 3  
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

*All Washtenaw County office building lobbies are available as warming centers during normal business hours.*

**Weekend Daytime Warming Center**  
Delonis Center, 312 W Huron Street  
November 11 - April 13 (normal daytime hours)

**Overnight Warming Center Ann Arbor**  
Delonis Center, 312 W Huron Street  
November 11 - April 13  
Open every night at 7 p.m.

**Overnight Warming Center Ypsilanti**  
St. Luke's Church, 120 N Huron Street  
Starting November 11  
Monday - Friday 7 p.m. to 8 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran, 201 N River St.  
Starting November 11  
Saturday and Sunday 7 p.m. to 8 a.m.

**YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY**  
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**YDL Holiday Closures**  
YDL will be closed on the following dates during the holiday season:  
Wednesday, Nov. 27 (at 5pm)  
Thursday, Nov. 28  
Friday, Nov. 29  
Tuesday, Dec. 24  
Wednesday, Dec. 25  
Tuesday, Dec. 31  
Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025



## FEATURED EVENT

### DOWNTOWN TREE LIGHTING

Friday | Dec. 6 | 5-6:30pm  
YDL-Michigan Library Plaza

A downtown tradition!  
Enjoy singing along with community members, sipping hot chocolate, decorating cookies, creating an ornament, and visiting the Bookmobile. Santa will join us for a photo op in his sleigh.



### Bethlehem United Church of Christ

*whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here*

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-665-6149

[Bethlehem-ucc.org](http://bethlehem-ucc.org) [facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2](https://facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2)

Bethlehem Church is home of the Groundcover office



### NOVEMBER 2024 EVENTS AT BETHLEHEM

Please visit the church website at:

[www.bethlehem-ucc.org](http://www.bethlehem-ucc.org)

for the most up-to-date calendar and event information.



### Sunday Worship Time

10:00 am In-person and via Live Stream

**YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY**

# Washtenaw Camp Outreach is modeling leadership and solidarity through community service

On a Sunday in mid-August I visited a Washtenaw Camp Outreach cookout at Ypsilanti Waterworks Park for the first time.

Washtenaw Camp Outreach is made up of individuals from various organizations, as well as unaffiliated individuals, many of whom have lived experiences of homelessness, poverty and other forms of economic hardship. Their day-to-day work involves visiting camps in person to connect with others in the struggle, share resources and supplies and assist others in living how they must to survive.

This was an ordinary Sunday. I first attended the Groundcover News Visual Arts Contest celebration event at the MakeShift Art Gallery in downtown Ann Arbor where they display and sell local art. Then later that afternoon, I found myself at Waterworks Park where people were setting up for the WCO bi-weekly cookout. I parked the car and started helping to set up, when my friend and comrade Jim Clark asked me, "What do you think about leadership through community service?" I said, "I'm cool with that," and then we had a brief conversation on the subject and proceeded to set up and have a great cookout.

Later that evening at home, as I reflected on the day at the Groundcover News art event and hanging out at the WCO cookout, I began to ponder on leadership and community service.

According to a quick Google search, "Leadership encompasses the ability of an individual, group or organization to 'lead,' influence, or guide other individuals, teams or entire organizations." "Leadership" is a contested term, something that is argued over, questioned and disputed.

Community service is work performed by a person or group of people for the benefit and the betterment of the community, contributing to a noble cause without the intention of getting rewarded or compensated.

These thoughts of leadership and community service and the awesome



**MIKE JONES**  
Groundcover vendor No. 113



**Washtenaw Camp Outreach Sunday BBQ has been a tradition of the group since it was established in 2020.**

camaraderie amongst those at the WCO cookout answered my question of what to do next in my life, in terms of reinventing myself. "Leadership through the means of community service." There is an old saying, "lead by example." From that Sunday forward I started thinking on how I want to give back to the community. I remembered in the "Ask Your Vendor" column of Groundcover where staff asked the vendors the question, "What would you bring to a BBQ?" My answer was cold water. So, from now on, I plan to be the water man and hand out bottles of water to individuals or at events such as WCO cookouts and meetings when I can afford to do so, and I also decided to volunteer with WCO in their frequent camp cleanups.

I got to talk to Josh who is unhoused and has been involved in WCO since May of last year. He got involved with WCO camp cleanups because, "One of my unhoused camp buddies was a hoarder and I needed help cleaning up my campsite and the good people of WCO helped me clean up the campsite and it started from that moment."

Do you encourage or suggest to other unhoused people to get involved with camp cleanup? "Yes, I do. I believe in keeping our community clean and I encourage others in the unhoused community to do their part in keeping our camp area clean. People at WCO are genuinely good people, who truly care about the community they live in and serve, and deserve all the support they can get."

I also got a chance to talk with LK

"Donations are really helpful this time of the year because winter is around the corner: clothes, blankets and camping supplies. All donations can be dropped off at the Hospitality House at 169 N Washington St [around the corner from the Ypsilanti Transit Center] or message us on Facebook. We also accept monetary donations via Venmo @washtenawcampoutreach. Funds are used for hotel stays, propane and buddy heaters."

Finally, I asked if there was anything else LK would like our readers to know about WCO. She replied, "WCO is not a government or funded entity; no one other than ourselves and those who donate provides goods and services to our community. We do this because there is a need. At WCO, we have weekly meetings and every-other-week cookouts and discuss ways to combat systemic oppression that leads to



The ground of a campsite before (left) and after a WCO cleanup.



# No place like homeless: the future of peer innovation

**MARIE**  
Groundcover contributor

"Catch-it, check-it, change-it" is utilized in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services peer certification training as an approach to help navigate difficult situations. This article is a bridge to help readers understand the value of intentional peer support (defined as a supportive relationship between people who have lived experience in common, where the peer support specialist has undergone training) to the homeless, written by a chronically homeless peer.

*The Catch:* Despite minimal published data about high quality studies specific to intentional peer support within the homeless or housing insecure populations, the effectiveness of formal peer support efforts to the homeless should be accepted ("treated") as similar to evidence-based peer-led initiatives in mental health, substance abuse and veterans services.

*The Check:* While the United States does not currently have established, published standards for peer support with the homeless, Canada's Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness Society published a Peer Housing Support Program Toolkit in 2019 to help guide the development and implementation of evidenced-based peer programs specializing in housing.

*Change it:* Efforts to implement intentional peer support related to housing issues has been underway here in Washtenaw County since 2022. Dedicated funding that allows for supervision and skill development for peer workers who are addressing poverty and institutional inequity would allow peer support programs to thrive in non-traditional sectors such as homelessness.

At the end of the warming center season in 2022, two community members, Stefani Crouse and Sheri Wander, created Circling Back, a peer support group for people with lived experience

with homelessness and housing insecurity. Through their participation in the support group and their personal and professional experience working in the area, a need and an opportunity arose to develop and create a trained and paid peer workforce able to reach those who fall through the gaps of services in Washtenaw County. That same year Circling Back was established; through a fiscal sponsor, they were selected to receive a \$40,000 2023 grant disbursement through Washtenaw County's New Human Services Partnership Mini-Grant, "in service of equity, and focused on addressing sys-

temic racism, poverty and trauma."

It appears Circling Back collectively took an approach that is similar to the slogan, "nothing about us, without us" in that they sought to create a new point of entry into the community support system based on issues related to housing stability, composed of people residing in the community they are serving. Circling Back recognized the need for people with lived experiences with homelessness to have opportunities to educate the community about homelessness, and to create new advancement opportunities for people who reflect the homeless populations' social identities and geographic locations.

Ypsilanti is an area that the Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) describes as an area with lowest access to opportunity. Ypsilanti is composed of a high number of residents who identify as Black, Indigenous or People of Color, and this is where the majority of low-income housing options are available.

Efforts during 2023 focused on identifying community members residing in Ypsilanti who were interested in beginning a journey towards becoming a trained peer support specialist, as well as those invested in changing how social work is done with the homeless community. By the beginning of 2024, Circling Back's first group of paid peer workers, all of whom have lived experience with homelessness, were formally active in the community on a daily basis.

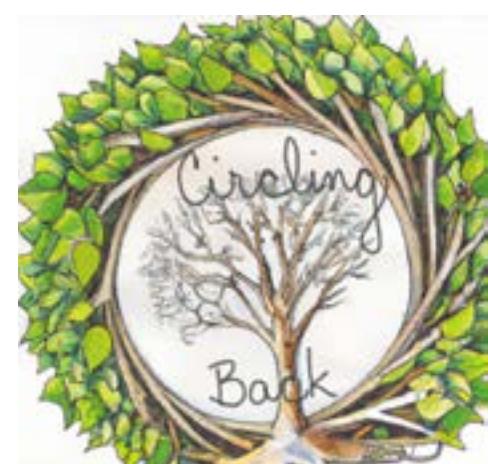
To help with the 2024 grant, Circling Back recruited me, a Certified Peer and Masters Social Worker, to act as team lead. I've been a state-certified peer for a decade, newly returned to my community of birth, yet a newcomer to the team with only a one page document to guide me. It was not immediately clear how significant training a housing specific peer force was, nor how vital my certification training, professional experience and lived experience with homelessness could be.

To clarify, it appears Circling Back founders worked to create a training program to address discriminatory practices and service gaps in both the training and employment of the peer workforce. Yet they also wanted to be sensitive to the values of inclusionary practices for people at various levels of the peer workforce experience. Current literature encourages a trauma-informed culture that values experience, training and supervision seen in the more established applications of the peer models, as they help address professional stressors.

For example, current state

certification requirements for peers to be eligible for a state-sponsored training require (1) a primary diagnosis of a qualifying mental health or substance abuse diagnosis, (2) have participated in services through a qualifying agency such as the Veterans Administration or Community Mental Health, (3) have at least 1-2 years of acceptable recovery, and (4) be employed by an agency that provides community based behavioral health services or by a recognized contract provider. The current state certifications requirements appear to contradict a 2021 MDHHS bulletin describing peer support specialists, which specifies a peer specialist qualifier has lived experience with substantial life disruption, and then defines a substantial life disruption as "experiencing some as or all of the following: homelessness, mental health crisis, trauma, lack of employment, criminal justice involvement, discrimination, stigma/prejudice intensified by mental health challenges, receiving public benefits due to poverty."

Around the same time the Circling Back team was commencing its first round of paid internship positions (summer 2024), a study was published in the Community Mental Health Journal called "Certified Peer Support in the Field of Homelessness: Stories Behind the Work." This study suggests a shift from, "if peer support to the homeless works," to "what makes peer support to the homeless effective." As of 2023, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration reported that 49 of the 50 states have programs to train and certify peer workers. However, Circling Back founders recognized the need to address a gap in opportunities for Washtenaw's most marginalized communities, as there is not a state certification for people focused on lived experience with homelessness, and current state requirements present barriers. It is important to recognize that the barriers to training or growth in projects such as Circling Back's, with its team members who were put together to reflect the Ypsilanti homeless and housing-insecure community (who are often disabled, experience mental illness, come from traditionally marginalized identities and have other challenges) mimic barriers to fair and equitable opportunities in historically marginalized areas overall. We need to design training and workforce support programs so that they eliminate these barriers, and are guided by those closest to the problem. We don't want people "at the top" to continue to make those decisions that the community being served has traditionally



**Circling Back Peer Support Network was established in 2022 to create a paid and trained peer workforce to reach those who fall through the service gap in Washtenaw County.**

been excluded from.

A lack of understanding about the value of a homeless peer force is exemplified by Washtenaw County Community Mental Health's local Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) lacking peer workers. The challenge at this time is less about if a housing-specific peer workforce is possible, and more about addressing the system barriers created by linking homeless services to mental health and substance abuse treatment. While Washtenaw County is fortunate to have a PATH program, as there are only 20 PATH programs in Michigan, locally, their impact is minimal, and even traumatic in some cases.

For example, late last fall, as reported in Groundcover News January 26, 2024, minutes before the first snowstorm of 2024 a PATH team made initial contact with people staying in tents, with both police and city officials in tow, attempting to clear people from one area. Fortunately, housing peers in the community rallied together and are advocating for more humane alternatives to addressing local encampments. Alternatives in the local community are more in line with 2024 United States Interagency Council on Homelessness' 19 strategies about how to address encampments.

The need to continue advocating for programs like Circling Back was evident in a 2018 survey conducted by MDHHS certified peers which focused on identifying community needs and priorities. According to the state survey, no peers are formally working in a housing or homeless specific setting, yet nearly half of the certified peers reported housing was a task they addressed most days of the week, and of those peers who engage in housing

# Civil Rights Act of 1964 turns 60! Remembering events, heroes and movements that shaped history

On July 2, 2024, the White House released a statement on behalf of President Joe Biden to remind the American people of the historic significance of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which was signed by President Lyndon Baines Johnson. It was announced that President Biden would visit the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library in Austin, Texas, to deliver some remarks to commemorate the 60th anniversary of this transformative legislation.

As the Civil Rights Act of 1964 turns 60, the mass media and the American public have begun to discuss how far the nation has come in successfully implementing the goals and objectives of this momentous legislation. After the 1964 Act, Congress passed and the President signed the 1965 Civil Rights Act (Voting Rights Enforcement/Freedom to Vote law) and the 1968 Civil Rights Act (Non-Discrimination in Housing/Fair Housing/Creation of U.S. HUD).

Although I have talked to several students and community members since the 50th anniversary of the legislation in 2014, I wanted to gauge how much progress we are making toward a full understanding of the history and the impacts. More recently, I talked to some University of Michigan students who volunteer to help poor and homeless people in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

They are members of student organizations interested in community engagement and service learning.

Among the organizations are Michigan Movement, Redefined and Michigan Community Scholars Program. A college senior, Lauren, said that civil rights mean equality to her. Her colleague, Esther, said that she thinks of Title 9 when she thinks of civil rights. Other students mentioned words such as "discrimination," "injustice" or "civility." I believe some members of the older generation may be able to speak more passionately, having lived through the civil rights struggles of the 1950s and 1960s.

## A Brief Overview of the Civil Rights Struggles

Sociologist Aldon Morris wrote the award-winning book titled, "The Origin of the Civil Rights Movement." He was a sociology professor at U-M, but is currently at Northwestern. Although his work was widely praised, a few historians and one law professor at the University of Minnesota wanted to see the book provide more



**WILL SHAKESPEARE**  
Groundcover vendor No. 258



**August 28, 1963, President John F. Kennedy met with civil rights leaders of the March on Washington at the White House.**

Emmett was beaten so badly with hard objects that his skull shattered, and bullets opened gaping holes across his head. His messed-up body was tied to a 70-pound abandoned industrial fan and dumped into the Tallahatchie river. Emmett Till was killed on August 28, 1955.

Emmett's mom, Mamie Till, fought to bring her son's body to Chicago for burial. The body and the face were so brutalized that Mamie insisted on giving Emmett an open casket funeral. Mourners who came to the funeral in South-Side Chicago wept and demanded federal government laws to protect Black people in the southern regions. The Emmett Till Antilynching Act was finally signed into law in 2022.

The Montgomery bus boycott started in December 1955 and lasted more than one year. Ms. Rosa Parks was asked by a bus driver to go to the back of the bus because only white people were allowed to sit near the front of the bus. She said she was tired and her feet were hurting, and she chose to sit in the front. She was kicked out of the bus.

A young pastor who had just become the pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, helped Rosa Parks and the local NAACP devise a plan on how to kick off the boycott, working with the Montgomery Improvement Union. The young Pastor's name was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The strategy devised by Dr. King, Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Improvement Union was successful. After more than 500 days of the boycott, the bus company said they lost a lot of money and wanted to end their segregation policy. It is obvious to many scholars that the Montgomery bus boycott was a planned social

change. Dr. King's 1957 book, "A Stride to Freedom," shared a story about the successful social movement.

The Civil Rights Act of 1957 was signed by President Dwight Eisenhower. It called for dismantling the Jim Crow laws which put punitive restrictions on Black people in the south who wanted to register and vote. It also aimed at removing segregation and discrimination in public facilities, including public education. President Eisenhower had to empower the federal National Guard to go to Little Rock, Arkansas, in order to help nine Black teens attend classes at Little Rock High School. The nine kids were nicknamed, "The Little Rock 9." One of them died recently at the age of 83. The SCOTUS recommendation in 1955 to use all deliberate speed to ensure integration of public schools and other public facilities was a major challenge in the 1950s, 1960s and beyond.

Black pastors and business leaders helped to form the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in order to work with several faith organizations and wage successful human rights and civil rights campaigns. Dr. King was named the first president of SCLC. Dr. King worked with the NAACP and other community leaders to get the federal government involved in the struggles to end discrimination and ensure freedom, equality and justice. The southern states of Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Florida were "Ground Zero" for racial tensions related to actual and perceived racial injustice. Dr. King traveled across the nation, giving speeches in Ann Arbor (November 5, 1962), Detroit (June 1963) and other cities.

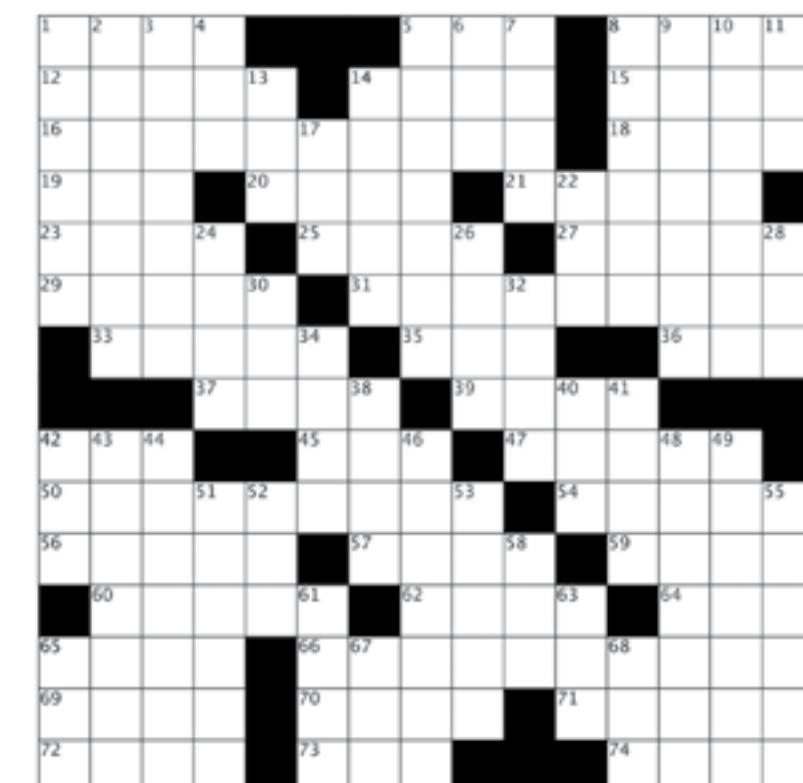
see CIVIL RIGHTS page 11 ➤

## Sudoku

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| 3 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 6 |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

1. "Good kid, \_\_\_ city" (2012 Kendrick Lamar album)

5. Car company with an H.Q. in Munich

8. Enterprise rivaling Enterprise

12. Outdo

14. "\_\_\_ you vera much!" (valentine for a horticulturist)

15. Yearn (for)

16. Fantastical ideals

18. Nicks or Knight, e.g.

19. Alt-rock genre

20. Own (up)

21. What boxers vie for

23. Dine and \_\_\_

25. Pamper, with "on"

27. Bank offerings

29. More cunning

31. Shapeshifting clown of literature

33. Hotel visits

35. Nonfiction flick

36. Court divider

37. Org. that dissaproves of boas

39. Assistant integrated with A.I. in IOS 18

42. One on a home screen

45. Unexplainable sexual repulsion, with "the"

47. "Brilliant!"

50. Crime often perpetrated through scam emails

54. Clay being in Jewish folklore

56. Make eye contact to an uncomfortable degree

57. Memo header

59. Establishment selling bagels and schmear

60. Jays and Rheas

62. Circle up in a monastery?

64. Director Brooks

65. Vibe

66. Dangerous snake ... or what 16-, 31-, and 50-Across share

69. Thin cut

70. "Woie is me!"

71. Important step before 'repeat'

72. Beg

73. Agent Smith's enemy, in "The Matrix"

74. Mull (over)

### DOWN

1. Some Vespas

2. Titular 14-Down characters, often animals

3. Delta, e.g.

4. Word with date and diligence

5. Drunk, slangily

6. Cry from a younger sibling

7. "\_\_\_ Side Story"

8. Judd who produced "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy"

9. One stereotypically stealing candy from babies

10. Passionate, as a romance

11. Metric tracked by a webmaster, in short

13. File read by Adobe Acrobat: Abbr.

14. Famous fabulist

17. \_\_\_ 40 (dye found in Twizzlers)

22. Texter's sign of affection

24. Disorderly pile

26. Chimp trained for 1000+ hours to become the third homonid to ever orbit the earth

28. Tennis segment that may be ended by a 36-Across

30. Bread option

32. Longtime CBS police procedural

34. Kerfuffle

38. Berry in a bowl

40. Oriental or Persian, e.g.

41. Apple product officially discontinued in 2022

42. Reactions to a cute dog, maybe

43. Artist also known as "Mr. Worldwide"

44. Grassland

46. Chinese chicken dish

48. He or I, but not she

49. Word after press or work

51. Editor's finds

52. Added logs to, as a fire

53. Stops and rolls connector

55. Bathroom growth

58. Opposite of WSW

61. Button on a car's radio

63. [Don't touch my squeak toy!]

65. Nile biter

67. \_\_\_ Miss

68. Not her's



# Black bean and orange salsa

**ELIZABETH BAUMAN**  
Groundcover contributor

**Ingredients:**

15 oz. can black beans, rinsed and drained  
2 oranges, peeled and diced  
1 jalapeno, seeded and finely chopped  
1/4 cup finely chopped cilantro  
1/4 cup chopped green onions  
1 Tablespoon oil  
1 teaspoon lemon juice  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon cumin



**Directions:**

Combine all ingredients and chill. Serve over rice with some melted monterey jack cheese for a delicious vegetarian meal.



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